52,391/- is pending before the MRTP Commission. The matter was last heard on 15.10.98 and is again listed before the Commission on 4.1.99. Another application filed by Ms. Alka Sharma under Section 36B(a) of the MRTP Act has been dismissed by the Commission.

Amendment in Hindu Marriage Act

1786. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet has recently approved the proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act is reported in the Statesman dated the 18th September, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of amendments likely to be made in the Act; and

(c) the purpose of making such amendments in the Act?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The news item referred to in the question related to the decision of the Government to further pursue in Parliament the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997 which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1997. The Bill seeks further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 so as to omit references to 'epilepsy' in those Acts.

Discrepancies in Identity Cards issued to Voters

1787. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had some years back introduced the scheme of issuing identity cards to the voters in the country; if so, the number of identity cards issued so far State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred State-wise and the number of cards yet to be issued;

(c) whether any time frame was fixed to cover all voters; and

(d) whether Government are aware of large scale of complaints of voters about discrepancies/errors in the I-cards and also in the voters list; if so, the remedial steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Statement-I showing number of photo identity cards issued State-wise as on 31.10.98 and Statement-II showing the amount released by the Central Government to various States for implementation of the scheme of photo identity cards are laid on the Table of the House. *(See* below)

(c) The Election Commission had initially fixed 30th November, 1994 as the deadline for the completion of the scheme. This deadline was, however, extended from time to time and it was last extended upto 31st March, 1996. No fresh deadline thereafter was fixed as issue of photo identity cards is a continuous programme.

(d) The complaints regarding discrepancies/errors in the identity cards and in voters lists as received, are looked into by the concerned District Election Officers/Electoral Registration Officers and necessary rectifications are carried out.